

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4565

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, PO, EEC

SUBJ: EC AID TO PORTUGAL

REF: BRUSSELS 05967 NOTAL

1. OCTOBER 7-8 LISBON PRESS GAVE STRAIGHT COVERAGE TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF EC AID PACKAGE. HOWEVER, ONLY MORNING PAPERS GAVE IT FRONT-PAGE (BUT SECONDARY) TREATMENT. AFTERNOON PAPERS BURIED REPORTS ON INSIDE PAGES.

2. PRESS REPORTED THAT LOANS OF 150 MILLION UNITS OF ACCOUNT (\$175 MILLION) WILL BE MADE BY EC'S EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK OVER 2 YEAR PERIOD. FUNDS TO BE RAISED ON OPEN MARKET AND GRANTED FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. REPORTING OF PREFERENTIAL INTEREST RATE CONFUSING, REFERRING TO BOTH 6.2 AND 9.2 PERCENT RATES.

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3. IN ADDITION TO MULTILATERAL EUROPEAN AID, PORTUGAL REPORTEDLY WILL RECEIVE BILATERAL AID FROM WEST GERMANY (70 MILLION MARKS) AND AS YET UNSPECIFIED AMOUNT FROM NETHERLANDS AND DENMARK. EC ALLEGEDLY PROMISED TO SUPPORT PORTUGAL'S PETITION FOR LOANS FROM SUCH INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL ORGANIZATIONS AS IMF AND IBRD.

4. COVERAGE OF MELO ANTUNES' STATEMENT ON ARRIVAL IN LUXEMBOURG BASICALLY SAME AS REPORTED REFTEL. NATIONAL TV GAVE HIS STATEMENT EXTENSIVE COVERAGE EVENING OF OCTOBER 7.

5. OCTOBER 9 DIARIO DE NOTICIAS HEADLINED STATEMENT REPORTEDLY MADE BY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER JORGE CAMPINOS ON RETURN FROM MEETING WITH EC: "IT IS FALSE THAT AID NOW GIVEN TO US BY EEC COULD BE WITHDRAWN." CAMPINOS REPORTEDLY WENT ON TO SAY THAT A WITHDRAWAL WOULD BE CONTRARY TO ETHICAL PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, AND THAT THERE HAD BEEN CASES IN WHICH AID WAS MAINTAINED DESPITE PROFOUND ALTERATIONS IN GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED. MINISTER WAS ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING THAT EC PACKAGE IS ONLY FIRST STEP, WITH MUCH MORE IMPORTANT NEGOTIATIONS DUE TO START SHORTLY. HE ADDED THAT PORTUGAL IS TRYING TO RENEGOTIATE CERTAIN POINTS OF 1972 UN-BALANCED (I.E. INEQUITABLE) COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT WITH EC. HE EMPHASIZED THAT, DUE TO DEEP STRUCTURAL DIFFERENCES, PORTUGUESE MEMBERSHIP IN EC WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR "MANY YEARS."

6. COMMENT: RELATIVELY SHORT SHRIFT GIVEN BY PRESS TO EC PACKAGE CONTRASTS WITH HEADLINE TREATMENT GIVEN TO MUCH MORE MEAGER ECONOMIC RESULTS OF COSTA GOMES' VISIT TO POLAND AND USSR. IT SHOULD, HOWEVER, BE NOTED THAT GERMAN AID PACKAGE OF 70 MILLION MARKS HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED AND REANNOUNCED AT INTERVALS SINCE MARCH 1975.
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